

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1918
ANSWERED ON:07.03.2000
DEVELOPMENT OF WOMEN
A. VENKATESH NAIK

Will the Minister of HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

- (a) whether India is amongst the most backward countries of the World in regard to the rights and development of women;
- (b) if so, the position of India in this regard;
- (c) the reasons for not improving the condition of women in India even after 50 years of Independence;
- (d) whether the National Institute of Rural Development has submitted any report to the Government in regard to the condition of women;
- (e) if so, the salient features thereof; and
- (f) the steps proposed to be taken by the Government to improve the condition of women in the country and give due status to them in the society?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT

(SHRIMATI SUMITRA MAHAJAN)

(a) & (b) Human Development Report 1999 brought out by UNDP has developed Gender Related Development Index (GDI) which attempts to capture achievements in various indicators such as life expectancy, educational attainment and income-but adjusts the results for gender inequality. GDI has been developed for 143 countries and India ranks 112.

(c) It is not correct to say that conditions of women in India have not improved since Independence. For instance life expectancy, maternal mortality, female literacy, share of women in economically productive population, wage differential between male and females, share of women in earned income and proportional income share for women etc. have shown marked improvement in the last 50 years. However, it is recognized that much more has to be done to improve the lot of women.

(d) & (e) Yes, Sir. National Institute of Rural Development has brought out India Rural Development Report 1999 in which gender issues have been discussed. The Salient features presented in the Report are:

The value of Gender-related Development Index (GDI) in 1995 for India is 0.388 against the maximum value of 0.919 in Sweden and minimum value of 0.169.

Among the Indian States Kerala records the highest GDI of 0.565 while Uttar Pradesh has the lowest value 0.293.

(f) Women centred approach to development is the important strategy adopted by Government. The earlier successful experiences of the scheme of Development of Women and Children in Rural Areas (DWCRA) in improving the income levels and empowerment of women has been given further thrust by stipulating that 50 percent of groups formed under Swarnajayanti Gram Swarozgar Yojana (SGSY) should be for women.

30% reservation for women in all tiers of Panchayati Raj and urban local bodies is one of the most significant steps by Government.

30% has been earmarked for women in all wage employment programmes of the Ministry of Rural Development.

Schemes such as Support to Training and Employment Programme for Women (STEP), Setting up of Employment and Income Generating Training-cum-Production Units for Women (NORAD), Socio-Economic Programme (SEP), Rashtriya Mahila Kosh (RMK), Indira Mahila Yojana (IMY) are being implemented by the Department of Women and Child Development for the advancement of Women.

Schemes for housing and shelter, educational infrastructure, health care system, support services like child care facilities, schemes for provision of drinking water and sanitation, conservation of environment and social security schemes to take care for specially disadvantaged rural women are all geared towards improving the lot of women. Monitoring and Evaluation studies are continuously

taken up both within the Government and outside, for getting the mid-term review and feedback about implementation and necessary rectifications.